

The Southeast News

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 9

JULY 1967



Mrs. F. C. Lester of High Point, N.C., is Southern Regional Secretary for the Council for Lay Life and Work. The Lesters have three children -- Dorothy, recently married to a ministerial student, Harry, recently graduated from Rollins College, and Elizabeth, who has been teaching at Kobe College, Japan, and who plans to be married this summer and return to Japan to continue teaching at Kobe.

The Pension Boards Report

The Pension Board's report: A total of 8,256 ministers and lay persons on their rolls of active and inactive members and an annuitant roll of 3,170 ministers, retired lay workers and their surviving spouses. Total book value of the three boards, together with the Pilgrim Memorial Fund, and the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief on December 31, 1966, amounted to \$110,632,499. The boards paid out \$3,096,535 in 1966 in annuity and relief benefits. Almost \$29 million of group death benefits is in effect.

Lay Life & Work Meetings July 30

ALABAMA:

Andalusia, First Church — 3:00-5:00 P. M.
Birmingham, First Church — 3:00-5:00 P. M.
Hartselle (Dr. Guy Colbert's Office) — 2:30-4:30 P. M.
Lanett Church — 3:00-5:00 P. M.
S. Montgomery United Church — 3:00-5:00 P. M.

GEORGIA:

Atlanta, First Church — 3:00-5:00 P. M.
Columbus, First Church — 3:00-5:00 P. M.

TENNESSEE:

Chattanooga, Pilgrim — 3:00-5:00 P. M.
Crossville — 3:00-5:00 P. M.

SATURDAY, JULY 29
Savannah, First Church — 10:00-3:00



Mrs. Edward M. Brown, chairman of the Conference Commission on Lay Life and Work, is chairman of arrangements for the Area Workshops on Lay Life and Work. Mrs. Brown, with her husband and two children, lives in Atlanta and is a member of Central Church.



Graduation

Rev. L. Floyd Carmack, who serves as minister of Bonanza United Church of Christ, received his B. D. degree from the Divinity School of Emory

Rev. Richard Mapes

Takes New Post

Rev. Richard M. Mapes, director of Field Education for the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., leaves to be pastor of Trinity Congregational Church, Pepper Pike, Ohio, beginning August 1, 1967.

Rev. David Jewell will take Mr. Mapes' place at Vanderbilt.

University on June 12, 1967.

Mr. Carmack was ordained January 3, 1960, by the East Alabama Association. He is a native of Talladega, Alabama, and is married to the former Geraldine Pemberton of Talladega. They have three children: Carol, Ronnie, and Gary.

News from the Churches of the Southeast Conference



Ambrose United Church Reports

Mrs. Oswald Vickers, church clerk, writes news of the Ambrose United Church of Christ, Ambrose, Ga.:

"We are so happy over renovating our old church. We have spent around \$1900 making needed repairs, painting outside top and bottom. We are a small church in membership, but with the help of our well-loved pastor, Rev. Troy Beach of Baxley, we are gaining ground. We have also done some work on the parsonage recently. Our church is 53 years old.

"We would be happy to see or hear from any living pastors of our church who served in past years. Hope they remember it by the picture."

V. B. S. Concluded At Langdale Church

The Langdale Church, Allen B. Hollis, pastor, concluded a week of effort in Vacation Bible School on Friday evening, June 2nd, 7:00 p. m., with a demonstration school. The attending parents and friends were treated to songs and memory work from each of the classes.

Fifty-two pupils were enrolled in the school and 38 had perfect attendance. All 15 of the teachers had perfect attendance. With 8 helpers, the participants added up to 75 in all. Mrs. Linda Sides was the able director.

New Hope Of Clio Enjoys Miss Pitcock

The March 19th service was conducted at the New Hope Congregational Church of Clio, Alabama, by Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock of Atlanta.

I am sure everyone received a blessing from Miss Pitcock's message and visit. Accompanying Miss Pitcock was her Aunt Nettie.

A large group of young people were also visiting from Blackwoods. Their mission was to assist and encourage New Hope young people to organize a youth group.

At 10 a. m., Miss Pitcock met with all the young people, both New Hope and Blackwoods, and Mrs. Dewie Mae Adams, their Sunday School teacher, for a lengthy discussion.

The noon meal was in the social room at the church.

An afternoon meeting from 1-3 p. m. was spent in discussion with Miss Pitcock.

Rev. Andy Anderson of Andalusia, Ala., will speak at the revival each night from Sunday, July 9, through Friday night. Sunday will also be homecoming, an annual affair.

Commencement At Southern Union

Thirty-four graduates received their diplomas at Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama, on June 4, 1967. These graduates heard Albert Rains, a twenty-year veteran of the United States House of Representatives, deliver the commencement address on "The Reward for Excellence." At present, Mr. Rains is Special Counsel for the U. S. Conference of Mayors.

The Baccalaureate Sermon was given by Dr. J. E. Rouse, president of Anderson College, Anderson, S. C., and the subject of his sermon was "A New Commencement."

Pilgrim, Chattanooga

The Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, looks forward to June 25th, when Warren Barr will be the guest minister in the absence of Mr. Slater. They will



Groundbreaking For Addition To Nursing Home At Pleasant Hill

On Monday, May 22, 1967, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new addition to Wharton Nursing Home, which is one part of the operations at Uplands Retirement Center in Pleasant Hill. Miss Alice Adshead, one of the original founders of Uplands, turned the first spade of dirt.

Uplands Retirement Center is the only Health and Welfare agency of the United Church of Christ which is geographically within our Conference. Uplands carries on a four-phase program: retirement village, two nursing homes, medical out-patient clinic, and community service work with indigent mountain families.

Shown in the picture on the right is Rev. H. Wayne Peck, Administrator of Uplands Retirement Center, with Miss Adshead.

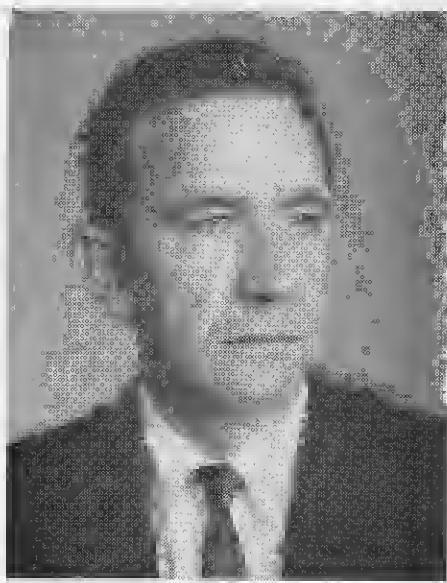
Activity Planning Book

One copy of the Activity Calendar Planning Book has been distributed to each pastor. Additional copies are available from the Stewardship Council, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102, at \$1.00 each. They are of inestimable help to every church officer.

Churches are urged to order fall stewardship materials early, especially the Emphasis Calendar.

visit also the last weekends in July and stay in Chattanooga during August and the first two weeks in September.

ORDINATIONS - SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE



James Clyde Walker Jr. Ordained At Brookmeade

James Clyde Walker Jr. was ordained by the Tennessee-Kentucky Association of the United Church of Christ on Sunday, June 4, at Brookmeade United Church of Christ in Nashville. Mr. Walker is a graduate of Rollins College in Florida (A. B., 1949) and of Vanderbilt University (B. D., 1967). He was born and reared in Statesville, North Carolina. He is a veteran of World War II and was in the insurance business before going to school to prepare for the ministry. Before joining Brookmeade Church, he was a member of the Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church. He hopes to go on to graduate school and also hopes to serve a United Church of Christ as a pastor while pursuing further studies.

Mrs. Walker is the former Rose Cannova of Hollywood, Florida, and they have two sons, James Clyde III, age 9, and Jonathan Grey Franklin, age 3.

Those participating in the service of ordination were: the Rev. John F. Anderson, pastor of Brookmeade Church, Dr. William J. Andes, minister of the Southeast Conference, the Rev. Richard Mapes, director of Field Work at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, and Martin Lewis, moderator of Brookmeade Church and a student of Vanderbilt Divinity School. Other ministers participating in the laying on of

Chiles V. Bowersock Is Ordained In Tennessee

Chiles Van Antwerp Bowersock was ordained into the ministry of the United Church of Christ June 10, 1967, by the Tennessee-Kentucky Association of the United Church of Christ. The service of ordination was held in Pond Presbyterian Church in Dixon, Tennessee, where Mr. Bowersock has been serving as a student pastor.

Mr. Bowersock received his A. B. degree from Princeton and a B. D. degree from Vanderbilt University in 1967. While serving in the United States Army in Japan as a chaplain's assistant, he committed himself to the Christian ministry. After his discharge from the Army he returned to Japan and taught school in a mission college. He and Linda, his wife, were married in the summer of 1966.

Those participating in the service of ordination were the Rev. John F. Anderson, pastor of Brookmeade United Church, Nashville, the Rev. Mr. William Barnes, pastor of Edgehill Methodist Church in Nashville, Dr. James Glasse, professor of Practical Theology at Vanderbilt University, and Dr. Wilson Welch, professor of Religion at Fisk University.

Mr. Bowersock was examined to determine his fitness for the Christian ministry at a meeting of the Tennessee-Kentucky Association of the United Church of Christ on May 28, 1967, at Brookmeade Church in Nashville.

UN-Washington Seminar

International development will be the theme of the Council for Christian Social Action's UN-Washington Seminar October 2-6. Participants will spend Monday through Wednesday noon in New York and Wednesday afternoon through Friday noon in Washington.

hands were the Rev. August Wenzel, a Lutheran, the Rev. Tom Wilson of the Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Peter Lunati, a Southern Baptist.

Mr. Walker was examined for ordination by the Tennessee-Kentucky Association of the United Church of Christ meeting as an Ordaining Ecclesiastical Council on Sunday, May 28th, which council approved Mr. Walker for ordination.



James Lee Smalley Jr. Ordained In Nashville

James Lee Smalley Jr. was ordained by the Tennessee-Kentucky Association of the United Church of Christ on Monday, June 5, at the Brookmeade United Church of Christ in Nashville.

Mr. Smalley is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B. A. 1961), of Andover-Newton Theological School (M. A. R., 1965), and of Vanderbilt University (B. D., 1967).

His home is Augusta, Georgia. Before going to Vanderbilt, he was assistant to the Dean of Men at the University of Alabama.

Mrs. Smalley is the former Suzanne Day Mertz of Wilmington, Delaware. They have one daughter, Anna, born October 31, 1966.

Those participating in the service of ordination were the Rev. John F. Anderson, pastor of Brookmeade Church, Dr. William J. Andes, minister of the Southeast Conference, the Rev. Richard Mapes, director of Field Work at Vanderbilt Divinity School, and the Rev. William Winterbottom, moderator of the Association and pastor of Crossville United Church. Dr. Paul Hardacre, chairman of Brookmeade's Board of Deacons, also participated in the laying on of hands.

Mr. Smalley was examined for ordination by the Tennessee-Kentucky Association of the United Church of Christ meeting as an Ordaining Ecclesiastical Council on Sunday, May 28, which council approved Mr. Smalley for ordination.

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Unified Operation Of CC, ER Pension Boards Gets Underway

At a joint meeting of the board of trustees of The Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers and the board of directors of the Board of Pensions and Relief of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, plans for unified operations of UCC pension funds for ministers got underway last month.

Five directors of the Board of Pensions and Relief were elected trustees of the Annuity Fund and five Annuity Fund trustees were elected directors of the Board of Pensions and Relief. Each corporation now has a board of 15 persons of whom 10 are identical, while 5 members of each board serve that board only.

The offices of the funds will continue to operate separately under their own executives until January 1, 1963, when the office in Philadelphia will be closed and the office of the unified boards set up in New York.

Dr. William Kincaid Newman was elected executive vice-president of the Annuity and Layworkers Funds.

The Rev. Silas P. Bittner, chief executive of the Board of Pensions and Relief since its organization in 1941, will retire as executive vice-president on July 1, 1967. He will continue as treasurer until January 1, 1968. The Rev. Paul F. Umbeck, general secretary, will serve as executive vice-president from July 1 to January 1, when he will begin serving as general secretary of all three boards.

Dr. Howard E. Spragg was reelected treasurer of the Annuity Fund and the Retirement Fund and elected treasurer of the Board of Pensions and Relief, effective January 1st.

Dr. Rockwell Harmon

Potter, 92, Dies

Dr. Rockwell Harmon Potter, 92, president of Hartford Seminary Foundation from 1928 to 1943, died May 15th. He was president of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions from 1925 to 1940 and moderator of the National Council of Congregational Churches in 1923-25.

Dr. Potter was dean emeritus of Hartford Theological Seminary and a nationally prominent Congregational clergyman who served from 1900 to 1928 as minister of the First Church of Christ, Congregational (Center Church) in Hartford.

Dr. Potter attended Yale and Harvard Divinity Schools and received the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in 1898. He held honorary doctorates from Union, Rutgers, and Williams College.

He was ordained a minister in 1898 and served as pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church in Flushing, New York, before coming to Hartford at the age of 26.

During his first year in Hartford, he became associated with the Connecticut Institute for the Blind. In 1907, he was elected president and served in that post until he resigned in 1957 on his 83rd birthday. For 58 years, he served as president of the Connecticut Bible Society. He was active in local and state councils of churches and in state and national affairs of his denomination.

"A source of wisdom to hundreds of ministers," Dr. Potter served as dean of the Hartford Theological Seminary from 1928 to his retirement from professional life in 1943, but he lived a more active life in retirement than most live while fully engaged in professional responsibilities. An immensely popular preacher, Dr. Potter welcomed invitations from all parts of the nation.

After years of observing men and human events, he could still say: "I am certain the Kingdom of God will come on earth. How soon depends on the number and quality of Christians we can rally to the cause."

The funeral was held at Center Church in Hartford.

Sixth General Synod

In Cincinnati

Even as they celebrate the tenth anniversary of the United Church of Christ, delegates to the Sixth General Synod in Cincinnati, Ohio, will be asked to make policy decisions affecting the course of the denomination's activities during the next decade.

The theme of the Synod, which will be held in the Netherland Hilton Hotel, June 22-29, is "Obedience to Christ: Personhood and Peace."

In his keynote address, the Rev. Dr. Ben Mohr Herbster, president of the United Church, will discuss planning for population growth, structuring affluence to overcome poverty, the racial justice movement, community organization, filling leisure time with meaning, and building human values into the scientific revolution.

Following Dr. Herbster's speech, study groups will meet to discuss these points and to make recommendations which will form the basis for actions to be taken during the remainder of the Synod.

Birthday Of United Church Of Christ To Be Celebrated June 25

On June 25, 1967, the United Church of Christ will be ten years old! Plans for observing in a special way at the General Synod in Cincinnati have been made.

Dr. Ben M. Herbster, president, has sent a letter to each local pastor to read to his congregation on this day as a means of marking the special significance of the day. Dr. Herbster says:

"This is a day for rejoicing, for reflection, and for looking ahead. It is a time for pondering soberly about the things we might have done and have failed to do about our inadequacies as servants of the living Christ."

"At the Sixth General Synod, we are especially concerned with whether the churches of the world have the resources and the resolution to plan a major role in establishing foundations which will make peace possible. Pray for the General Synod delegates that they may be faithful to the Gospel and its demands. Pray for peace. Pray that God may so guide leaders of the world that war shall end."

Ordination Sermon For James Clyde Walker Jr.

(Notes taken from sermon by Rev. John F. Anderson, pastor Brockmeade, Nashville.)

James Clyde Walker Jr., you are at the threshold of your ministry. What is that ministry all about? Brockmeade United Church of Christ, what is your ministry all about? What are you going to bring to the world?

First, we the ministry; we the church, have a treasure to offer to the world. The treasure gave early Christians courage in the face of persecution, it made them capable of tenderness and love in a world that seemed rancorous and without concern. It gave them direction and purpose in a world that seemed to many to be an endless round of meaninglessness.

The treasure was passed from Christ to the apostles, to pastors, and teachers, from one land to another, until the faith encircled the globe.

The treasure that is ours to offer the world is God, who revealed himself to the world in the face of Jesus Christ. I have more good news.

We have this treasure in earthen vessels. Ministers are not super-men. They are subject to the same temptations as all other men know, and frequently we submit.

So, with the institutional church like all human institutions, it stands constantly under the judgment of God.

The wondrous good thing that we have to bring to the world, we carry about in clay pottery. But this is the good news. It points to something that happened in history long ago, namely, the incarnation.

God is still at work in the world in much the same way he worked long ago.

He uses humble, every-day men. He makes them servants to the world, even as a carpenter-turned itinerant preacher served man.

We have a treasure. It is in earthen vessels. By that treasure, God's redemptive ministry is being carried out.

Dr. Herbster Designates Peace Prayers Day

On June 1 the General Board of the National Council of Churches designated June 25, 1967, as a day when special prayers for peace in Vietnam may be offered. I am happy to concur in that designation, for this is a trying time, and our hearts are torn by what we see and hear. We need a day on which we may unite our hearts in common expression of a yearning for peace.

I consider it appropriate that this day of special prayers should have been set on the day we expect to observe the 10th anniversary of the United Church of Christ. Through the ten years of United Church of Christ history, and even more intensively through these recent months, we have committed ourselves to work and pray for peace. Here then is an opportunity to celebrate at one time our own unique history and our part in the wider fellowship of those who are concerned about peace.

Ben M. Herbster, President
United Church of Christ

Summer Retreat At Wadley Deemed Successful

The Alabama - Northwest Florida Women's Fellowship, inviting the Georgia-South Carolina Women's Fellowship, had a very fine retreat at Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama, June 16-17.

In attendance were 52 people from 18 different churches.

"Living Our Faith in Today's World" was the theme carried out in the program, which included speaking by Dr. F. C. Lester, Mrs. F. C. Lester, and Elizabeth Lester, as well as members of the conference staff and Association officers. Mrs. Thomas Bender made her tour to Puerto Rico come alive, and Rev. Emilie Pitcock gave an introduction to the Statement of Faith.

The following officers were elected: President — Mrs. W. W. Hall, Lanett

Vice-President — Mrs. Carrie Crowder, Birmingham

Treasurer — Mrs. A. R. Van Cleave, Wadley

Spiritual Life — Mrs. Arthur Wallace, Andalusia

Christian Education — Mrs. J. T. Cox, Pleasant Grove

Witness — Mrs. John Owen, Birmingham

World Board Seeks End To "Little Grass Shacks"

An end to the picturesque, verminous grass thatched roofs in underdeveloped areas of the world was foreseen as the UCBWM board of directors voted to participate in Shelter for the World, Inc., a non-profit corporation formed to develop a low-cost roofing material using sand, local vegetable fiber such as hay, reeds or twigs, and polyurethane foam.

The process, conceived by E. P. Burland IV of Bridgeport, Conn., a UCC layman and corporate member of the World Board, is seen as a possible answer to the problem of providing quick, cheap housing in time of natural disaster, as well as more permanent housing in poverty-stricken areas.

Dr. Reginald Helfferich, who heads the World Service Division, estimates that one billion people now live under grass thatch roofs that leak, rot, harbor vermin and create health and fire hazards. Substitute materials currently available cost between 15 and 25 cents a square foot. Experiments have produced panels costing about six cents a square foot that survived the equivalent of eight years of weathering in lab tests. Next step for the corporation will be construction of five prototype houses in Jamaica.

New Address And Telephone Number For Southeast Conference

During the week of July 10, the Southeast Conference office will move to its new headquarters in the house on Central Church's new site, at 2634 Clairmont Rd., NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30329. Please address mail after July 15 to:

P. O. Box 29883
Atlanta, Ga. 30329

The new telephone number of the office of the Southeast Conference will be 633-5655. This number will become operative sometime during the week of July 10th.

To reach the new Conference office, take the Clairmont Road-Chamblee exit from I-85 going north. Coming from north to south, take the Clairmont-Decatur exit. On Clairmont Road go past the intersection of Clairmont Rd. and Briarcliff Rd. and turn to the right just past the shopping center.

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Installation Service Southeast Conference

(Taken from address of Dr. J. E. Danieley at the Installation Service for Dr. William J. Andes as Conference Minister and Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock as Minister of Christian Education.)

Few men have had the high privilege which is mine this evening. As a layman, I have the honor of speaking on the occasion of the installation of your Conference staff, which includes Dr. Andes, my former pastor.

As you know, Dr. Andes served as minister of the Elon College Community Church. When you called him to this position you gained the services of a deeply dedicated family. Their ministry is their life; they always give of themselves in full measure. Your gain was our loss. But, standing by as we did while they wrestled with the challenge of this call, we know something of the prayerful concern and consideration which was involved. You have as your Conference Minister a man of ability, education, experience, and dedication. I salute all of you and assure you of our best wishes as you work together.

The theme of this Conference is "Communicating the Gospel." It is by no means a new theme. Hear Jesus say — "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men" (Mark 1:17). Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation (Mark 16:15), or again, he said — "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." We all remember the words of the Great Commission. You, then are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you and, remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. (Matt. 28:19-20).

This, then, is our mission in this day — to communicate the gospel to all the world. If we are to keep that gospel relevant to the purposes of God and the needs of His people throughout the world, if we are to be understood, if we are to communicate effectively, then we must understand the times in which we live and the dimensions which a theme like this takes on in a

day like ours.

1. We must recognize that we live in a time of fear. We have the power to destroy modern civilization within hours. We sit on an unbelievably powerful powder keg which has an all-too-short fuse.

2. It is an age of pessimism. Although most of us don't want to admit it, we share an attitude of pessimism — things will get worse before they get better — war in Vietnam, relations with Red China, labor problems, lack of concern for moral standards. These and many other problems promise to be worse before we find a way to establish right relationships with God and our fellowman.

3. It is a time of uncertainty. How happy, how satisfying to be with the congregation on Sunday morning! Everything seems so right — until you think of the millions who are unreached who have either not thought about the church and the gospel it would communicate, or having thought about it, have written it off as irrelevant and unimportant, the millions whether or not they did what was right, until recent years, at least felt they could depend upon the church to set right standards of living! Now, they read a book called "Situation Ethics" written by a seminary professor; they hear about the "new morality". They're convinced that we in the church can no longer agree on the basic Christian position; it is no small wonder they are insecure, confused, and uncertain.

We are dealing then with fear, pessimism, and uncertainty and we're dealing with all of them on a grand scale.

Let's look for a moment at our resources — what do we have to work with as we engage in the struggle, as we go forth as ambassadors of Christ?

1. At the risk of being labeled with uncomplimentary names and accused of being trite, I list first the Bible. This is the Word — it deserves more time and attention than we have been willing to give it. So many of us treat it like a pocket knife — something which is there to use when we want to whittle or peel an apple, but forgetting that this is really where we "head in" if

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we are Christian at all. Here is an inexhaustible source from which to draw strength and comfort for ourselves and for others.

2. A second resource is the NEVER CLOSED avenue of prayer. A few years ago I was associated with a young man from Bombay, India, a member of a non-Christian religion. Five times a day every day — without fail — he engaged in periods of prayer. His faithfulness serves as a reminder of our indifference — He went to each prayer time as if he had an appointment with God. Prayer must have priority if we are to serve effectively.

3. Another resource is found in the Fellowship of the Committed. The church cannot really be the church apart from the congregation — the strength that comes from sharing in study, in worship, and in service is a resource which is vital for the Christian.

4. Finally, let us not forget the promise of the presence of the Risen Lord. Alone, one could not expect to face many of life's problems — alone we could not hope to win the world! The glorious truth is that we are not alone. We believe that all things are possible with Christ, and as His follower, I have the promise of his presence to lead, guide, and direct, to comfort, strengthen, and sustain. "If Christ be for us, who can be against us?"

We have been called, challenged, commissioned — we are under orders from the King to take this Gospel, which we are persuaded is true and vital, to all men everywhere. For this purpose, this denomination has been formed; buildings have been constructed; some have been called to serve as clergy in the local church, and others to dedicate themselves to specialized ministries in other positions. Dr. Andes and Rev. Emilie Pitcock have been called to such responsibilities in this Conference.

It is their task to minister to the leaders of congregations to the end that all of us, who as members of the church are a part of the body of Christ and ministers of his Gospel, may fulfill our ministry of communicating the Gospel to all men everywhere. God grant it.